

I am angry I even have to write this letter. But, the actions of the Federal Communications Commission and the dialogue of those wielding power in the United States, specifically the Ashcroft types, over the last few months is frightening.

New restrictions on free speech are not going unnoticed. It is despicable to conceal these actions under the guise of "family values." We must not forget that the same persons touting "family values" are breaking up families, by deploying troops into a quagmire known as the Iraq war for an indefinite period of time. "Family values" mean nothing in the abstract and everything to the individual family. To push off so called "Christian values" unto the American people as a whole is oppressive and in direct contradiction to what this country was built upon, religious and personal freedoms. It is time the government recognizes the sovereignty of the family and its own ability to govern the family, through rules and regulation. It is also time the family takes responsibility for their own rules, regulations and values, and stop burdening the government with issues such as censorship. Parents should take responsibility for the media content within their own home.

The constitution upholds the right to free speech in all but the direst circumstances, and it is unacceptable for a governing body to cast aside this unalienable right to pursue a witch hunt of those who do not agree and speak out against the actions of the same governing body. The constitution is not necessary to protect speech that is liked, but that which is not liked.

It is improper for the government to infringe on an individual's right to free speech. It is the responsibility of the individual to decide what he or she will seek out as an information source, not the government. If the government can censor any media source, the media in the United States and the accessibility of information in general becomes biased. I as a proud citizen of the United States am appalled at the Bush administration's attempts to stifle information that does not cast the administration in the best light.

It is also appalling to equate one's mentality with the type of entertainment that the individual pursues. It is unnecessary for any other person to understand why I enjoy a certain radio program, television show, newspaper, book, etc. If I choose to listen to a radio show that others deem unintelligent, this does not imply that I myself or the millions of others who also enjoy this radio show are also unintelligent. This slippery slope argument will prove to be just that. Anyone individual or group banking on this assumption should be aware that most people, contrary to popular belief, can think and make decisions for themselves, and do not need a governing group to act as ethics police.

In close, this new push for censorship in the media and the ethnocentric family values will prove to be short lived. There is no doubt that the American people are more intelligent than the governing bodies are giving us credit for. We as a people will reject the government's attempt to censor the information and entertainment we as a people have access to. I would call for the legislative branch and or the judicial branch of the government to halt the attempts by the executive branch and their cohorts from infringing on the rights of the American people. The Federal Government could better spend their time keeping Americans safe from terrorist attacks, or on domestic issues such as the

deplorable state of health care in the United States. How much damage to our rights are we as Americans willing to allow while the government pursues this witch hunt?

Sincerely,
James Cray Jr.
Kent Ohio